

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233780

FOR CHARGE ONLY FROM LANDE, NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BG, US

SUBJECT: TITLE I

1. INTERAGENCY GROUP PRESENTLY GOING THROUGH FINAL STAGES OF PREPARING INFORMAL AND NOT BINDING SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS ON COUNTRY BY COUNTRY TITLE I ALLOCATIONS FOR FY 77. ALLOCATION FOR BANGLADESH AT PRESENT IS 400,000 TONS WHEAT, 100,000 TONS RICE, 40,000 TONS VEGETABLE OIL. INDICATIONS ARE THAT COTTON WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT REPEAT NOT BE AVAILABLE AND THAT TALLOW WILL REQUIRE A BUREAUCRATIC FIGHT. I AM IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO GET ALLOCATIONS REVISED TO ADD 100,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND ELIMINATE THE VEGETABLE OIL. I HAVE AGRICULTURE AND AID SUPPORT ON TALLOW, BUT MUST STRUGGLE WITH OMB- COULD THE BDG HANDLE BULK BROWN RICE WHICH IS CHEAPER TO BUY AND SHIP (EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED THIS AND AGRICULTURE LIKES THE IDEA).

2. ON A WORST CASE ASSUMPTION, E.G. LESS THAN 500,000 TONS OF FOOD GRAIN AND NO REPEAT NO COTTON OR TALLOW, WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE BUDGETARY IMPACT? IF I CAN GET

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TALLOW AND THE FOOD GRAINS SITUATION REMAINS AT THE LOW END

OF THE 200-500,000 RANGE, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT WE NEED ANY
ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES? OR A SOMEWHAT SIMPLER QUESTION,
CAN YOU LIVE WITH YOUR REQUEST LIST MINUS COTTON?

3. THERE IS PLENTY OF FOOD AVAILABLE HERE FOR TITLE I
PROGRAM BUT I DO NOT WANT TO CONCUR IN ANY PROGRAM WHICH
THE COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY HARMFUL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, I AM SURE YOU AND WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF A BARE BONES PRO-
GRAM.

4. ANY COMMENTS YOU CAN SEND ME IN THIS CHANNEL ON THIS
RATHER CONFUSED SET OF QUESTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

ROBINSON

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